

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:55pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth and James McIlroy. Larry Arend, Library Trustee also attended the meeting.

The Selectmen invited the Library Trustees to meet with them to discuss the Farmers Market held at the Newfields Public Library. James asked Larry Arend if he was aware that Peter Allen had approached the Selectmen for permission to hold a Farmers Market in the Town Hall parking lot and that Peter was told that he needed to submit a Certificate of Insurance as required by all renters of town owned property. Peter opted not to take any of the options offered by the Selectmen in order to hold the market at the Town Hall parking lot. Larry said he was aware of that but did not and does not agree that a Farmers Market requires insurance coverage. James said the Selectmen are only trying to protect the Town and that one injury at a Farmers Market could result in a lawsuit against the Town. James also mentioned that if the insurance requirement was waived for a Farmers Market, other renters would ask that the requirement be waived for them too. Larry asked to agree to disagree about the need for insurance.

James asked Larry why a Public Hearing was not held by the Library Trustees, as previously discussed, to talk about the changes to the Library driveway and parking lot. Larry replied that he felt that an abutters hearing was sufficient. Larry said he sent two notices of abutters meetings to be held by the Library Trustees on the changes to the library driveway and parking lot and was disappointed that the Selectmen and the Road Agent did not attend either of the meetings. The Selectmen did not read the notices as requests to attend the meetings – only that they were sent as notification that the meetings were being held.

With regard to the project, Larry met with the Connors and had a second meeting noticed to all of the abutters of the library. He also spoke with the Martins and Sylvia Kurth about the plans. At this time the Trustees are waiting to hear if they need to drop a line into the sewer line for drainage from the parking lot. They will be paving alongside the fence and will re-build the handicap ramp to be ADA compliant. Arborvitae will be planted along the property lines. There will be parking for 6-7 cars. There will be no outdoor lighting in the back of the building. They are trying to be sensitive to the concerns of the neighbors of the library.

The Library Trustees have funds in their checking account and are not asking for funds from anyone for this project. They would like to start construction now, but are willing to wait until the spring if necessary.

Larry does not foresee any addition to the library in the long-term future. The Martins have asked to donate a gazebo in memory of her mom. This would be placed behind the library. There has also been some talk to putting in a garden behind the library.

Deborah Chaze gave her resignation to the Library Trustees. Interviews are taking place Thursday for someone to replace Deborah.

Larry mentioned that the Library has not received any checks from the Trust Funds since the first quarter of 2007. He spoke with Ray Trueman about this and hopes to receive the funds soon. He also needs this information to put together a budget for 2008.

Michael asked if the Library Trustees are posting their meetings in two public places at least 48 hours before the meetings are to be held. Larry said they are not posting notices at this time. It was suggested that he speak with Sue McKinnon about posting the meetings on the calendar on the Town website. He was reminded that public postings of meetings are required by law.

Larry mentioned that he is not happy with the landscaper's work this year. He commented that Badger Park was not mowed very much this year and that the library needs a fall clean up. The landscaper did not mow as much this year as the grass did not grow because of a lack of rain. The landscaper is scheduled to complete the town-wide fall clean up as soon as most of the leaves have fallen from the trees.

Larry asked about the status of the repairs to the wall behind Badger Park. He was advised that the repair would appear as a Warrant Article and that although we received an estimate from Reuben Hull, we are waiting for another estimate from the Road Agent. Larry then asked what would happen to the stones from the old wall and said he would be happy to have them piled in his yard.

Correspondence to the former Town Planner was signed.

The 2007 Tax Warrant was signed.

The Municipal Assessment Data Sheets were signed.

The Administrative Assistant was asked to have Wes Moore go to the Town Office to sign the above items before they are mailed.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

James made a motion to accept the recommendation of Brian Knipstein, Road Agent that the marked trees on Halls Mill Road are a hazard to public safety and should be removed.

Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor. The Road Agent will be notified of this decision.

The Health and Dental co-pays required from the full-time town employees will be deducted from their paychecks twice a month. In months where there are three paychecks, the last paycheck will not have the co-pays deducted.

The Town Hall gutters will be cleaned by the landscaper while he is completing the fall clean up.

The Friends of the Library asked if the Selectmen have any items to be included in their quarterly newsletter. The Selectmen would like a reminder about the parking ban going into effect on November 15th and the need for volunteers for a Planning Board position, Celebration Committee members, and volunteers for the Fire Department.

A note was left in the Town Office that last Thursday (November 8th) the office door was unlocked and all of the lights were on at 7:45pm. No one was in the office and no one answered a call from the front counter. No meetings were scheduled in the office or in the Town Hall. Nancy was asked to remind everyone with a key to make sure the lights are off and the doors are locked if they are the last one to leave the building.

The health insurance rates from the Local Government Center were reviewed. We are expecting to receive one more set of quotes before a decision is made on the coverage for 2008. The Local Government Center sent notification that they are not willing to issue disability insurance coverage to the full-time town employees at this time as only four out of six eligible employees were willing to purchase the coverage.

Nancy was asked to speak to the Town Treasurer, Don Doane about attending the ADS User Group Meeting in December.

Correspondence from Plodzik & Sanderson was reviewed with regard to the 2006 annual audit. Nancy was asked to provide a copy to Don and have him call James to discuss the circumstances of the grant payments on conservation purchases.

The Selectmen investigated the storage of wood at Badger Park and did not see any – it must have been a temporary storage location.

Michael made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 6th, 2007 Selectmen's Meeting. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Michael made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 6th, 2007 Public Hearing on Mosquito Control for 2008. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

James advised that he sent the key elements of correspondence from the Town Counsel to the Transportation Advisory Committee for their review. Based on a copy of a letter

recently sent to the State Transportation Department, there are other issues of concern with the proposed bicycle lane between Newmarket and Newfields.

The Selectmen were notified that Bob Anderson is retiring from the NH Department of Revenue and were invited to join them in wishing Bob farewell.

An invitation to for An Evening County Officials was received from the Atkinson Republicans Committee. However, the event is being held during tonight's Selectmen's Meeting.

At 8:35pm James made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with both in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant